



Brownfields 2017 Area-Wide Planning Grant Fact Sheet Norfolk, VA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through competitive grant programs for brownfields site assessment, site cleanup, revolving loan funds, area-wide planning, and job training. Additional funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program

EPA's Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program assists communities in responding to local brownfields challenges, particularly where multiple brownfield sites are in close proximity, connected by infrastructure, and limit the economic, environmental and social prosperity of their surroundings. This program enhances EPA's core brownfields assistance programs by providing grant funding to communities so they can perform the research needed to develop an area-wide plan and implementation strategies for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and reuse. The resulting area-wide plans provide direction for future brownfields area improvements that are protective of public health and the environment, economically viable, and reflective of the community's vision for the area.

Project Description

\$200,000.00

EPA has selected the City of Norfolk as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant recipient. The city will work with the community and other stakeholders to develop an area-wide plan and implementation strategy in the Harbor Park/East Downtown area, Tidewater Gardens/Saint Paul's neighborhood, and Fort Norfolk/Ghent neighborhood. Catalyst sites include the underutilized 50-acre Harbor Park properties, the 133-acre Saint Paul's area, and the 30-acre Fort Norfolk Revitalization Area. These are all former industrial sites that have housed metal foundries, machine shops, steel manufacturing facilities, and rail yards. They are in economically distressed neighborhoods with high poverty rates, and include over 1,800 deteriorating housing units. Grant funds will be used to create a land use revitalization plan, market reuse strategy, and leveraging strategy to move these neighborhoods forward. The city's goal is to spur green, resilient, mixed-use transit-oriented development. Redevelopment spurred by the area-wide plan is expected to stimulate the economy, and foster smart growth, infrastructure reuse, and the creation of greenspace. In addition, the revitalized planning corridor will help the city find approaches that can house low-income residents, create jobs, and provide a healthy and sustainable neighborhood. Key partners who will work with the city on this project include the Elizabeth River Project, Commonwealth of Virginia Office of the Governor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Green Infrastructure Center, Old Dominion University Sustainable Development Institute, and Lafayette Wetlands Partnership.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team
(215) 814-3173

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Web site
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-delaware-maryland-pennsylvania-virginia-west>)

Grant Recipient: City of Norfolk, VA
(757) 664-4032

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.